

Abstract 402

TITLE: Program Implementation's Effects on HIV/AIDS Prevention Program Outcome in Maryland Prisons and Jails

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BACKGROUND/OBJECTIVES: There are serious shortages of confidential meeting places for HIV Prevention Case Managers working in Maryland prisons. As a result, some counselors only offer individual counseling sessions, others only offer group educational sessions, and others combine both methods. This study analyzes differences in outcome data based on type of method used.

METHODS: A pretest/posttest design was used linked by a unique identifier. An instrument outlining session implementation for each participant was matched to the pretest/posttest. Analysis was conducted for persons completing the program between July 1996-August 1997 (n = 182).

RESULTS: Overall, participants significantly improved in all scales (Attitude Toward Condoms [$t = -3.134$, $p = .002$], Condom Use Self-Efficacy [$t = -3.158$, $p = .002$] and Risk Reduction Self-Efficacy involving alcohol/drugs [$t = -3.037$, $p = .003$]). However, there was a positive correlation between the amount of time spent in individual counseling sessions and the Condom Use Self Efficacy scale ($p = .01$, $r = .201$, $n = 162$), and a negative correlation between the amount of time spent in group educational/counseling sessions and the same scale ($p = .001$, $r = .251$, $n = 162$).

CONCLUSIONS: Results suggest that participants' self-efficacy to use condoms is improved with an increased amount of time spent in one-on-one counseling. However, self-efficacy to use condoms is decreased with the increased amount of time they spend in group sessions. This underscores the importance of disaggregating intervention outcomes by counseling type to increase understanding of differences in effects. It also points to the need to address institutional barriers to client-centered case management in prisons and jails.

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